New irrigation projects

2340. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister, of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start any new irrigation projects to provide irrigation facilities to farmers;

(b) if so, the extent to which the problem of farmers is likely to be mitigated as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have announced any package for farmers of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject the irrigation projects are planned, formulated, funded and executed by the State Governments out of their own resources as per their priorities. The Central Government has not proposed new irrigation projects to provide irrigation facilities to farmers. However, a pilot scheme "National project for repair renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture" has been approved by the Union Government in January, 2005 with a total outlay of Rs. 300 crore for the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. The aims and objectives of the project are to restore and augment the storage capacity of water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. The scheme envisages taking up pilot projects by the States in one or two districts. Ministry of Water Resources has approved projects in 16 districts of 9 States including Tamil Nadu. The schemes for restoration of 8 water bodies in the Sivagangai district and 38 water bodies in the Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu estimated to cost Rs. 10.594 crore have been approved.

Study on underground water resources

2341. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: